

LLWCHWR
Urban District Council

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR

1944

BY

G. E. DONOVAN,
M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

GORSEINON :

GORSEINON PRINTERS, BRIGHTON ROAD.

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Llwchwr Urban District Council.

Chairman : Councillor EDWARD MORRIS, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor SILAS JAMES.

Councillors.

THOMAS WILLIAMS.	S. MEREDITH,
JOSIAH JONES, J.P.	I. L. WILLIAMS.
Mrs. S. M. JAMES.	Mrs. E. EVANS.
WM. EVANS, J.P.	WM. EVANS, J.P.
GWYN EVANS.	T. I. DAVIES.
J. GRIFFITHS.	W. J. GRENFELL, J.P.
A. H. MATHIAS.	W. P. POOLE.
Capt. L. DAVIES, J.P.	Mrs. H. OWEN, J.P.
W. D. WILLIAMS.	T. W. JONES.
W. HILL.	Col. D. H. THOMAS, J.P.
IVOR REES, J.P.	R. JONES.

Public Health Committee.

Chairman : Councillor WM. EVANS, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor Mrs. H. OWEN.

Chairman and 10 members of the Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. S. M. JAMES.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor Mrs. E. EVANS.

Chairman and 10 members of the Council. 5 Co-opted members

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health.

G. E. DONOVAN, M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors.

Senior Inspector—B. D. OWENS, C.R.S.I., Meat Cert. R.S.I.

Additional Inspector—M. C. DAVIES, C.R.S.I., Meat Cert. R.S.I.

Health Visitors.

B. M. JOHN, S.F.N., S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

M. E. E. DAVIES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Clerks.

P. TUXWORTH.

M. MORGAN.

Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

Medical Superintendent—G. E. DONOVAN, M.Sc., M.B.,
B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Matron—D. ADAMS, S.F.N., S.R.N.

Llwchwr Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
GORSEINON.

To the Chairman and Members of the
LLWCHWR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1944, which is the fifth of its series.

I wish to acknowledge the co-operation which I have received from the Council, the Staff of my own department, the Heads of the other departments of the Council, Dr. A. R. Culley, County Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. T. W. Wade, Chief Medical Officer of the Welsh Board of Health.

Your obedient servant,

G. E. DONOVAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND CHIEF INDUSTRIES.

This area comprises both urban and rural features. It has developed into an industrial area with a series of townships and villages, and practically all these habitations have most of the amenities of a large town, and are provided with a pure supply of water from the Swansea Corporation Reservoirs at Velindre and Cray, sewerage schemes, scavenging services (on a contract system), public light, gas service and parks. In the very rural parts of the district, water is principally obtained from wells and springs, and the sanitation is primitive, provision of pails, etc.

There are three cinemas in the area: two at Gorseinon and one at Pontardulais. There are no public libraries, but libraries are provided at the various Welfare Institutes.

The chief industries in the district are Coal-Mining, Steel-Smelting, Tinplating and Agriculture.

AREA AND POPULATION.

The Llwehwr Urban District is divided into four Parishes, namely, Llandilo-Talybont, Loughor, Gowerton and Llangyfelach; the total acreage being 17,815 acres.

The acreage of each Parish is as follows:

Llandilo-Talybont	...	7,556 acres.
Loughor	...	1,247 acres.
Gowerton	...	2,538 acres.
Llangyfelach	...	6,474 acres.
		<hr/>
		17,815 acres.
		<hr/>

The estimated resident population of the district for 1944 is given by the Registrar-General as 24,760.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 6,447, and the rateable value of the district was £96,203, which represents a sum of £360, as the yield of a penny rate.

BIRTHS.

The number of live births registered for the district in 1944 was 463, of whom 233 were males and 230 females, representing a birth rate of 18.7 per thousand of the population. This rate compares favourably with that recorded for England and Wales, which is given as 17.6 per thousand of the population. In 1943 the net total births amounted to 440, with a birth rate of 18.1 per thousand of the population; thus this year there is an increase of 23 births or 0.6 above the rate recorded for the preceding year.

10 male illegitimate children were registered and 9 females, a proportion of 41.0 per thousand registered live births.

The stillbirths numbered 21, that is 12 males and 9 females, which is equivalent to a rate of 45.3 per thousand total (live and still) births.

DEATHS.

The net total deaths after allowing for inward and outward transfers amounted to 277, of which 147 were males and 130 females. This gives a death rate of 11.2 per thousand of the population as compared with 279 deaths and a death rate of 11.5 per thousand of the population in 1943. The death rate for England and Wales in 1944 was 11.6 per thousand of the population.

There were 19 deaths under 1 year during the year, giving an Infantile Mortality rate of 41 per thousand live births. The Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales is given as 46 per thousand live births.

The death rate amongst illegitimate children was 105 per thousand illegitimate live births, whilst the rate for legitimate children was 38 per thousand legitimate births.

Three Maternal deaths occurred during the year 1944; one death from Puerperal Sepsis and 2 from other maternal causes, giving an incidence rate of 6.1 per thousand live and still births.

One death occurred from diarrhoea and enteritis under the age of 2 years, which is equivalent to 2.1 per thousand registered live births. The rate for England and Wales was 4.8 per thousand.

Nine deaths were due to all forms of Pneumonia, 10 due to Bronchitis, 5 due to Influenza, and 5 due to other forms of Respira-

tory Diseases, which gives a total of 29 deaths from all forms of respiratory diseases apart from Tuberculosis, giving a death rate of 1.17 per thousand of the population.

Three deaths were registered from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System, and four from other forms of Tuberculosis, which is equivalent to a rate of 0.28 per thousand of the population.

There were 9 deaths registered from Violence apart from Suicide and 1 Suicidal.

Cancer and other forms of malignant disease caused 53 deaths, which is equivalent to a rate of 2.1 per thousand of the population.

The rates of deaths from Infectious Diseases in 1944 are as follows :

			LLWCHWR.	ENGLAND & WALES
			No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 population.
				Rate per 1,000 population.
Smallpox	0	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0	0.00
Whooping Cough	2	0.08
Diphtheria	0	0.00
Measles	0	0.00
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0	0.00
Influenza	5	0.20
Cerebrospinal Fever	0	0.00
				Not Available.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were only 2 cases of Diphtheria during the year, of which there were no deaths. It may be stated that the incidence of Diphtheria in this area is low due to the extensive Immunisation Campaign.

The percentage of children immunised in this area is as follows :

Children aged 1 to 5 years	...	90%
Children aged 5 to 15 years	...	94%

The number of children completely immunised against Diphtheria during the year 1944 was as follows :—

235 Pre-school children.
22 School children.

It cannot be too strongly stressed that Diphtheria Immunisation gives nearly 100% protection and that in my opinion a parent or guardian who knowingly deprives a child of this protection is guilty, to say the least, of gross negligence—and that is using a mild term. There is no reason why anyone in this area can state that they are unaware of the facilities available to them for immunisation. Most of the children have been immunised by myself.

Scarlet Fever.

Sixty cases of Scarlet Fever were notified to my department during the year, 51 of which were admitted to Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

The removal of cases of Scarlet Fever in this district to Isolation Hospital depends upon home conditions. If the home conditions are such that in the opinion of the medical officer of health it is safe to nurse the patient at home, this is done, but if the home conditions are not so, the patient is admitted to Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

Scarlet Fever is caused by the Haemolytic Streptococcus and produces a typical rash in the patient. Many a case may be infected with this organism resulting only in sore throat with absence of rash and strawberry tongue, hence the difficulty in the detection and control of carriers of this disease.

Anti-Toxins.

Supplies of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria Anti-Toxins are stored at the Police Stations in the district ready for use by any of the General Practitioners.

Pneumonia and Influenzal Pneumonia.

Seventeen cases of Pneumonia and Influenzal Pneumonia were notified during the year, giving a rate of 0.6 per thousand of the population. Of these, 9 proved fatal. The rate recorded for England and Wales was 0.97 per thousand of the population.

Erysipelas.

Eight cases of Erysipelas were notified, producing a rate of 0.3 per thousand of the population, the rate for England and Wales being 0.29.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Seven cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. This gives a rate of 15.1 per thousand total (live and still) births, and the rate for England and Wales was 10.34 per thousand. Three of these 7 cases died.

Intestinal and Respiratory Diseases.

Intestinal diseases such as Typhoid, etc., in a community which has an adequate water and sewerage system are well under control.

The Respiratory diseases such as Influenza, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, etc., are spread generally by droplet infection. If individuals could be educated not to sneeze or cough, except into their handkerchiefs, the incidence of these diseases would be greatly reduced.

A fair amount of disease can be attributed to ignorance and economic conditions. Probably, within the next 25 years, these will be greatly reduced by education and the increased standards of living of the common people.

Scabies.

Scabies are treated in this area by the Benzyl Benzoate treatment, which is supervised by the Health Visitors. Cases are brought to our notice by the County Medical Officer of Health, Local Medical Practitioners, Health Visitors, and by direct application by the patients, who are very appreciative of the facilities given to them.

Venereal Diseases.

Venereal Disease is a menace to public health. One of the best means of reducing its incidence is by very generous propaganda. The Ministry of Health has carried out such propaganda throughout the country. The Glamorgan County Council is co-operating to the fullest degree with the local authorities. We are co-operating whole-heartedly with this V.D. campaign.

Many cases are brought to the notice of the public health department. Those who are not attending for treatment are contacted and encouraged to attend a V.D. clinic. Contacts are also requested to attend a clinic.

Wasserman Blood Tests are being done as a routine in our Ante-Natal Clinics, and the samples of blood are sent to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory.

The nearest clinics for this area are held at Swansea and Port Talbot, and the sessions are as follows :—

Swansea Clinic (Situate at Swansea General and Eye Hospital) :

Males.—Monday 2.0 p.m.

Tuesday 7.30 p.m.

Friday 10.30 a.m.

Females—Thursday 1.0 p.m.

Port Talbot Clinic (Situate on the right hand side of the road immediately opposite the exit from the G.W.R. station.)

Males—Monday 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and 5.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m.

Thursday 10.30 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. and 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

Females—Wednesday 10.30 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. and 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

Thursday 5.0 p.m. to 7.0 p.m.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Twenty-two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 16 of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified during 1944. The total number of deaths registered from all forms of Tuberculosis were 7.

The existing arrangements between the Medical Officers of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association and the General Practitioners of the district appears efficient and satisfactory. All new cases are, as a rule, referred to the Tuberculosis Physician for confirmation of diagnosis, treatment, and for continued observation of progress.

Certain cases are eligible for financial help, and those that are not but who need financial help are referred to the Public Assistance Authorities.

On receipt of a notification of surgical tuberculosis, the sanitary inspectors automatically check up on the milk supply from which district the notification is received.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease are given in the following Table :—

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	1
1—	2	...	1	2
5—	5	2
15—	1	6	...	1
25—	3	3	2	...	2	1	...	1
35—	4	...	2	1	1
45—	1
55—	1	...
65 and upwards	1	1
TOTALS	12	10	10	6	2	1	1	3

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action was taken under this regulation during the year 1944, relating to Tubercular employees in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172.

No action was taken under this section during the year 1944.

RHEUMATIC FEVER AND RHEUMATIC CARDITIS.

Rheumatic Fever in childhood is the main source of Heart Disease up to the age of 40 years in Britain. It exceeded Tuberculosis as the cause of death up to the age of 20 years. It is estimated that almost 10% of all rejections for service during the war were on account of heart disease. The economic loss each year in peace-time could be judged by the fact that the duration of economic activity in these men was no more than 10 years on the average.

It is recognised that poverty and overcrowding are basic causes and that Rheumatic Fever is rare among the children of the well-to-do. Anything done in these directions will reduce the incidence of Rheumatic Heart Disease.

Compulsory notification of Rheumatic Fever is essential for progress, as it would permit its early diagnosis. The London County Council has an excellent scheme for Rheumatic Children. The Public should know that it is very desirable that institutional treatment from the outset and subsequent supervision should be extended to every case of Rheumatic Fever. The facilities in this district are meagre.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are made by Dr. Sladden at the "Beck" Laboratory, Swansea. All Medical Practitioners within the district can have any samples examined free of cost, the cost being borne by the Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) **For Infectious Cases.**—A Motor Ambulance is provided for the removal of Infectious Cases to the Isolation Hospital.

(b) **For Non-Infectious Cases, Accident Cases and Maternity Cases.** The various works in the district provide ambulances for the removal of these cases to the Gorseinon or Swansea Hospital, according to which hospital the patient is a subscriber. The service is quite adequate under normal conditions.

There is a St. John Ambulance at Gowerton, and also at Pontardulais. These can be obtained by any member of the public upon payment, if such a member is not a contributor.

Nursing in the Home.

(a) **General.**—For ordinary sickness or accident the service of the Queen Victoria Memorial Association Nurses are available in the district. These nurses are paid by the District Nursing Association.

(b) **Infectious Diseases.**—In cases of severe epidemics such as Measles or Influenza, helpers can be obtained, and these helpers act under the direction of the Health Visitors.

Premature Babies.

Arrangements have been made with the two local hospitals that take in Maternity Cases in this area, to keep in hospital any infant who is born prematurely. The child is not sent home until it is up to the average weight. If a child is born prematurely at home, the home is visited by the Health Visitor, and if the child requires institutional care it is immediately sent to the West Glamorgan County Hospital, Penrhiwtyn. If it is safe for the child to stay at home, the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority co-operates in providing blankets, hotwater bottles, etc.

Illegitimate Children.

All these cases are carefully supervised by the Health Department, and suitable institutional treatment is provided if required. The unmarried mother is encouraged to keep her own child if possible, when the home difficulties with the grandparents of the child are smoothed out. It is very desirable that the mother should

keep the child as long as possible as no institution is equivalent to even a fair natural affection from the baby's mother. Some cases must be adopted and the Public Health Department co-operates in seeing that the child is suitably adopted.

Many enquiries are made by adoption societies about the suitability of prospective foster parents in this area. All these cases are thoroughly investigated, and a confidential report is sent to the adoption society.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are six Infant Welfare Centres in the district :—

Gorseinon	...	held on alternate	Tuesdays.
Loughor	...	„ „	Tuesdays.
Grovesend	...	„ „	Tuesdays.
Penllergaer	...	„ „	Thursdays.
Gowerton	...	„ „	Wednesdays.
Pontardulais	...	„ „	Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The attendance at the Clinics during 1944 were as follows :—

				Infants
Gorseinon	...	No. on Register	...	306
		Average Attendance	...	100
Loughor	...	No. on Register	...	184
		Average Attendance	...	60
Grovesend	...	No. on Register	...	81
		Average Attendance	...	33
Penllergear	...	No. on Register	...	42
		Average Attendance	...	18
Gowerton	...	No. on Register	...	229
		Average Attendance	...	91
Pontardulais	...	No. on Register	...	271
		Average Attendance	...	85

Food Distribution at the Infant Welfare Clinics.

Dried milk foods are sold to mothers at all Infant Welfare Clinics.

The food is purchased by the Sanitary Inspector, who is, at present, responsible for the issue of same from the central stores, which is kept at the Public Health Department, to the clinics.

Arrangements for the transportation of the food to the various clinics are made by the Sanitary Inspector, who supervises the distribution of the food according to the quantities required by the person selling at the clinic. One of the female clerks in the Public Health Department sells the food at the largest clinics, namely, Gorseinon, Loughor, Gowerton and Pontardulais, whilst the food at Grovesend and Penllergaer is sold by the Health Visitors.

During the year under review the sales amounted to £2,984. The selling price of each commodity includes a small charge to cover expenses.

The Ministry of Food has co-operated with us to the fullest extent in the distribution of Orange Juice, Cod-Liver-Oil, Vitamin Supplements, etc., at the various clinics.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Ante-Natal Clinics are held monthly at Gorseinon and Pontardulais. The Midwives attend these clinics with their patients and the clinics are integrated with the County Ante-Natal Clinic at the West Glamorgan County Hospital, Penrhiwtyn.

Gorseinon ... Held on the Third Thursday of each month.

Pontardulais Held on the First Thursday of each month.

Dr. Drummond, Regional Blood Transfusion Officer, has asked for Blood Samples to test for the Rh factor. We send to him samples of blood of the pregnant women attending our Ante-Natal Clinics.

School Clinics.

The School Clinics in the district are held at Pontardulais, Gowerton and Gorseinon. The children are treated periodically by the Education Authorities' Medical Officers.

Tuberculosis Clinics.

The treatment of Tuberculosis is in the care of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association, and patients

suffering from this disease attend the Dispensary at 10, Grove Place, Swansea, which is open from 9.30 a.m. to 12.0 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Sanatorium accommodation for the patients of this district is provided at the various Sanatoria in Wales, there being no local sanatorium.

Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

Infectious cases in the district are treated at the Garngoch Isolation Hospital, where the facilities provided lend themselves to the adequate nursing of the various cases which are admitted.

During the year the number of cases admitted comprised : 51 cases of Scarlet Fever, 2 cases of Diphtheria, 3 cases of Erysipelas, 1 case of Puerperal Pyrexia, and 2 cases of Whooping Cough.

Vaccination.

There are certain risks if the vaccination law is not complied with. It is advisable, especially during wartime, that vaccination should be carried out.

Hospitals.

The Hospitals where treatment is available for the inhabitants of the district are as tabulated below :

Hospital.	Situation.	Purpose.	Beds.
Gorseinon General Hospital.	Gorseinon ...	General and Maternity	Medical and Surgical (60 beds). Children (10 Cots). Maternity (10 Beds). Ear, Nose and Throat.
Swansea General and Eye Hospital	Swansea ...	General ...	Medical and Surgical. Children. Ear, Nose and Throat. Venereal Disease.
Llanelly & District General Hospital	Llanelly ...	General ...	Medical and Surgical. Children. Ear, Nose and Throat.
West Glamorgan County Hospital	Neath ...	General and Maternity	
	Bridgend ...	Mental ...	
	Hensol Castle	Mental ...	
Garngoch ...	Garngoch Common	Isolation ...	Infectious Diseases. 28 Beds, 4 Cots.

Midwifery and Maternity Service.

Most Maternity Cases are attended at home by Midwives, while others make use of the Maternity Hospital, Gorseinon, Local Medical Practitioners being called in if required. Infective cases are treated at the Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

Complicated pregnancies and Obstetrical emergencies are admitted to the West Glamorgan County Hospital at Neath. If there is any danger due to the journey to Penrhiwtyn, complicated maternity cases can be sent to the Gorseinon Maternity Hospital.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Children and Homeless Children.

Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children is provided for by the respective Public Assistance Authorities at Pontardawe and Penmaen.

Health Visitors.

During the year the Health Visitors paid :

1.—To Expectant Mothers	First Visits...	18
			Total Visits	27
2.—To children under 1 year of age	First Visits...	520
			Total Visits	928
3.—To children between the ages of				
1 and 5 years	Total Visits	1,887

Infant Life Protection. Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

Any cases coming under the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, are reported by the Health Visitors.

Orthopaedic Treatment, etc.

Cases of pre-school children are referred to the Orthopaedic, Ear, Nose and Throat and Ophthalmic clinics of the Glamorgan County Council for examination and treatment.

It is very desirable that the local council adopt a scale of charges in respect of spectacles, operative treatment and orthopaedic appliances for the assistance of parents who are unable to meet the additional cost of services provided for their children.

WATER SUPPLY.

The following tables show results of water samples taken during the year :—

WATER ANALYSIS Chemical and Bacteriological Reports).

No.	Source.	Chemical Report.	Bacteriological Report.
1	Spring, Glynfyd Farm, Pontardulais ...	A soft neutral water. Chemical analysis indicates the sample to be moderate organic purity.	Of doubtful purity.
2	Shallow Well, Llannant Farm, Gorseinon	A fairly hard water. Chemical and microscopical characters are satisfactory.	Satisfactory.
3	Shallow Well, Penllergaer ...		Satisfactory.
4	Spring, Penwaun Fach, Llangyfelach ...	Fairly soft water of faintly acid reaction. The chemical and microscopical results are of moderate purity.	Of moderate bacterial purity.
5	Spring, Ffynon Feibion. Do. ...	A fairly soft water of faintly acid reaction. Chemical analysis shows no evidence of any organic contamination.	Satisfactory.
6	Tap, Highland Terrace, Pontardulais ...	Soft water containing dissolved iron in appreciable amounts—1/24th grain per gallon. No evidence of contamination.	Satisfactory.
7	Goppa Dam, Pontardulais ...	Chemical analysis indicates the sample to be a soft water of faintly acid reaction. Sample shows no evidence of any organic contamination.	Satisfactory.
8	Tap, Gorswaddan Farm, Gorseinon ...	Do.	Satisfactory.
9	Spring, Ffynon Feibion, Llangyfelach ...	A moderately soft water of acid reaction ; no evidence of any organic contamination.	Fairly satisfactory.
10	Deep Well, Glynhir Works, Pontardulais	A fairly soft water of faintly acid reaction. Chemical and physical characters are satisfactory.	Satisfactory.

During the year water samples were also taken for the purpose of ascertaining the Free Chlorine content, the results of which are as follows :—

<i>No.</i>	<i>Reaction.</i>	<i>Free Chlorine Per Million.</i>
1.	Faintly alkaline, PH=7.4	Nil
2.	PH=7.4	.20
3.	Ph=7.4	Nil
4.	Faintly Acid, PH=6.4	.10
5.	PH=7.4	.12
6.	Alkaline, PH=8.0	.20

MILK.

Milk is a very nutritious food, especially for the young. Unfortunately, it can be a vehicle for disease, especially Tuberculosis and Brucella Abortus.

If the milk is obtained from healthy herds, and the milking done under proper hygienic conditions, and all proper precautions are taken, it should reach the consumer in a safe form.

The general consensus of medical opinion is that as another precaution, all milk should be properly pasteurised. In an area like ours, where there is a very high percentage of unpasteurised milk, it is desirable that all milk should be heat treated before giving it to the young. The slight vitamin deficiency which may result can easily be remedied by giving the children supplementary vitamins.

One-third of the deaths in this country from Tuberculosis in children under 5 years of age are due to the Bovine Organism—2,000 deaths a year with of course a much larger incidence of invalidism.

The American troops in this country were not allowed to drink milk unless it was both from Tuberculin Tested Herds and had been pasteurised.

During the year 35 samples of milk produced in this area were submitted for the T.B. test, the results of which were as follows :—

Negative	...	34
Positive	...	1

More sampling of milk for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli could be carried out but at present the number of samples which can be forwarded to the laboratory are limited by the County Council, due to shortage of guinea-pigs.

Under the Ministry of Agriculture's National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, the Sanitary Inspectors submitted 1,102 milk samples to the Swansea Laboratory for examination in accordance with the Resazurin Test. The object of this test is to ascertain the keeping quality of milk.

Bacteriological samples of milk were taken on 53 occasions, and found to be :—

Satisfactory	...	28
Unsatisfactory	...	25

HOUSING.

In this area there are some 748 Council Houses. Like most other districts new dwellinghouses are required. The chief reasons for this are that during the war period no new houses were erected as labour and materials were required for war purposes. The number of vacancies which occurred in council houses during the year under review were few and therefore no marked reduction could be made in the abatement of overcrowding. To obtain a true picture of the position, a further overcrowding survey is necessary and also a further slum clearance programme.

The selection of council tenants is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. At the time of the preparation of this report the position regarding applicants for council houses is as follows :—

1.—There are at present 850 families applying for council houses, who are living in apartments or living through and through with the tenants or occupiers.

2.—In addition, 155 families now residing in houses have applied for council houses on account of various circumstances.

3.—Of the above (1 and 2) 91 families are overcrowded according to the standard laid down in the Housing Act, 1936.

4.—There are eight families living in apartments where one member of the family has or is suffering from Tuberculosis where it is desirable that better accommodation be provided.

To meet with the housing emergency, the Council contemplates erecting 68 houses, of the non-parlour, three bedroomed type, on land available on existing sites where roads, water and sewers are already provided. During the erection of these houses, the Council can then take stock of the housing conditions in the district and consider their future programmes.

Adequate housing at economic rents is necessary for the maintenance of the health of the community. It is useless giving a family a decent house if it means that due to the high rent they cannot afford to buy good food.

FLOODING OF RIVERS.

River Lliw.

Serious flooding continues to take place by the above river overflowing its bank during continual rain, especially the area comprising Railway Terrace (22 houses), the main road between the L.M. & S. Station and the Lliw Bridge, and dwellinghouses in Eynon Street, Chapel Street and Gwalia Terrace, Gorseinon.

During 1944, Railway Terrace was flooded six times within three months, and the other localities on several occasions. So bad were the conditions that the W.V.S. in conjunction with the County Council had to open an emergency feeding centre.

A deputation from the residents of Railway Terrace was received by the council, and the council is considering the question of the future use of Railway Terrace.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

During the year under review, the only Common Lodging House in the area was closed. The reason for this was that the premises were not maintained in accordance with the Council's Bye-laws respecting the maintenance of Common Lodging Houses.

Common Lodging Houses tend to attract undesirable elements, and in one way it is good that there are no such premises in the area. On the other hand, it is bad, as this type of premises is of some value to the "down and outs." It can be argued that on the whole, the advantages of not having such premises in the area outbalances the disadvantages.

FOOD.

The following foods were condemned by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year :—

Tea	1½lbs.
Tinned Meats	161 various weights'
Cabbage	68lbs.
Flour	196lbs.
Herrings, Pilchards, Salmon, Sardines	33 tins
Tinned Milk	644 tins
Toffee	6lbs.
Edible Seaweed	3,790lbs.
Prunes	150lbs.
Bacon	885lbs.
Baked Beans	204 tins
Pork	162lbs.
Sausages	171lbs.
Cheese	159lbs.
Jam	23 pots
Cereals	115lbs.
Syrup	2lbs.

Eggs (Eire)	101
Tomato Paste	608lbs.
Beef	176lbs.
Butter	33lbs.
Margarine	2lbs.
Dates	68lbs.
Tinned Peas	5 tins

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, AND MILK AND CREAM REGULATION.

The duties of inspection under the above Acts are entrusted to the Officers of the County Police, of, and above the rank of Sergeant.

Through the kindness of Superintendent Lyons, I am able to give the following particulars of samples taken and sent to the Public Analyst to be analysed under the Food and Drugs Act, etc., in the Llŵchwr Urban District during the year 1944 :

New Milk	25
Butter	5
Margarine	3
Lard	5
Coffee	2
Creamola Pudding Mixture	3
Semolina	2
Sponge Pudding Mixture	1
Cake Mixture	1
Cake Flour	1
Ginger Biscuit Mixture	1
Strawberry Jam	1
—Iodine	1
—Cream of Tartar	1

Informal	—Boric Acid Ointment	...	1
	—Aspirins	1
	—Epsom Salts	1
	—Glauber Salts	1

These samples were collected at Gowerton, Gorseinon, Loughor and Pontardulais, and of these samples 51 were certified by the Public Analyst as genuine

The samples of sponge pudding mixture and ginger biscuit mixture were found to be infested with meal mites. In the case of the sponge pudding mixture a letter of warning was sent to the vendor by the Clerk to the County Council, but in the case of the ginger biscuit mixture proceedings were instituted and the vendor fined.

Two of the milk samples were slightly deficient in milk fat and the vendors were cautioned by the Clerk to the County Council, and in the other case of deficiency in milk fat proceedings were instituted and the vendor fined.

APPENDIX.

1.—General Statistics.

Area of District—17,815 acres.

No. of inhabited houses at the end of the year—6,447.

Rateable Value of District—£96,203.

Sum represented at 1d. rate—£360.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1944—
24,760.

2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births :—					
Legitimate	...	444	223	221	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—18.7.
Illegitimate	...	19	10	9	
Still Births :—					
Legitimate	...	17	11	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) 45.3.
Illegitimate	...	4	1	3	
Deaths	...	277	147	130	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—11.2.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ...	1	} 6.1
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes...	2	
Total	3	

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births—41.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—38.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—105.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—53.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—2.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)—1.



